

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE:

INFO.

SUBJECT Yugoslav Resistance Groups

DIST. 12 December 1946

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PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. The gathering point of the Zagorsko Kalnicki Krizari company is in the fields of the Zagoria district, Croatia, four kilometers west of Ivanci village and one kilometer south of Prigorec village. This gathering point is known only to the population of Prigorec village, who assist the Krizari by sending them food and information about the government forces. The 2nd Battalion of the Artillery Brigade of the 14th Division, and two battalions of the 9th KNOJ Division are operating in this area. The commander of the Zagorsko Kalnicki Krizari company is Nikola Dusper, 28-year-old law student and former Ustashi lieutenant. The leader of the west Kalnicki group, which works with Dusper, is Lt. Klapi Pongradz, 26-year-old law student and former air force lieutenant.
2. The group commanded by Dusper has about 215 active Krizari, armed with various types of rifles and pistols and with two Breda machine guns. The group under Pongradz is composed of about 196 active Krizari, armed with various weapons including one 95mm. field gun and four machine guns. The most serious problem for these Krizari groups is their lack of Mauser rifle ammunition, hand grenades, and explosives. They carry out attacks and sabotage on the main Zagreb-Varazdin and Zagreb-Krizeveci-Koprivnica highways, destroying telephone and telegraph lines and damaging the road surfaces.
3. Between Ludberg and Varazdinski Toplice is Leskovec village, the residents of which are almost all Krizari.
4. The Krizari hospital is on the Moslavina mountain near Popovac. There are also ammunition, food, and clothing depots, and a weapons repairing unit. The Moslavaacki Krizari territory includes the Moslavacka mountain and the northwest part of Bilogora - about 15,000 square kilometers.

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5. At the end of July 1946 two leaflets were published and delivered clandestinely to the population of Zagreb. Both leaflets bore the signature of the publishing authority as the "Croatian Government in Exile". The first leaflet carried the names of the ministers of the new Croatian government in exile: President of the Republic - Dr. Vlatko Macek; Vice-president of the Republic - Dr. Butkovich; Ministers - Sibe Brcich, Ivan Mestrovich, Dr. Totbar, Rukavina, Knez, Stevan Pribicevich, Tesla Jr., and Jure Krmpotich. The second leaflet carried a resolution submitted by this government to the Allies requesting that the whole of Croatia with Bosnia and Herzegovina be separated from Yugoslavia and be placed under the protectorate of the United States. The resolution requests that the demands of the Croatian Peasant Party leaders be supported by the United States, England, and France. It accuses Tito of being a criminal who caused the death of 750,000 Croats, and states that 350,000 other Croats have disappeared without trace. Many HSS (Croatian Peasant Party) members were arrested following the appearance of these leaflets.
6. The following areas are regarded as centers of illegal Krizari activity: Bjelovar, Djakovo, all of Slavonia, Papuk, and Krndija. In these areas liquidation of outspoken OZNA personnel and the destruction of municipal files are frequent occurrences.
7. The secretary of the regional NOO (People's Liberation Committee) was killed at Okucani while delivering a speech. At the beginning of August 1946, a group of 24 Krizari broke into the village of Berak, Vinkovci District, disarmed the local garrison and kidnapped two government soldiers. On this occasion the Krizari entered the village dressed in government uniform and wearing authorized insignia and emblems.
8. At the beginning of July 1946, Chetniks and Krizari operating together in Bosnia - and particularly in Central Bosnia - captured 20 OZNA personnel. During August 1946, Krizari twice blew up the railway line near Breko. The Slavonski-Brod-Sarajevo railway line is a permanent target for frequent Krizari-Chetnik attacks. In the Gorski Kotar area, especially in the vicinity of Cabar-Gerovo, trains operating between Ogulin-Susak are frequently attacked by "shumars" (men of the forests) as they are called by the local population. In this area anti-Tito youth are active in political and religious propaganda. Government authorities have been compelled to adopt special security measures on this line because of the increasing frequency of attacks. Highway traffic in the area is also attacked and anti-Tito elements have succeeded in capturing fully loaded trucks on the road. On 19 September on the Rogatec-Vert stretch, "shumars" attacked with bombs and submachine guns a train carrying physical culture teams, wounding sixty persons and killing a considerable number.

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9. In the areas of Zagrebachka Gora and Hrvatsko Zagorje there are many small Krizari groups which have held out successfully with the protection of the local population. Resistance personnel in the Kordun and Banja areas and especially in the Petrinje, Otachao, and Gorpich areas are principally former Ustashi. At the end of July and the beginning of August, Krizari held a series of public meetings at Croluk, Stefanje, Krapinski Toplice, and Vrbanja.
10. Reprisals by the government have been drastic. At the beginning of July, 16 young men connected with the Krizari were shot at Krapinski Toplice as reprisal against Krizari who had burned the municipal files and killed four prominent government functionaries. In Sarajevo and its vicinity, authorities have made secret lists of prominent Croat nationalists who are to be regarded as hostages in the event of increased Krizari activity.
11. Specially organized Communist groups of three, called by the people "Frontovski trojke" (groups of three adherents of the Popular Front), are very active not only in Croatia but throughout Yugoslavia. The mission of these groups is that of killing outspoken nationalists in the villages in the same manner as Krizari kill outspoken Communists. During June, five dead bodies of prominent peasants and HSS leaders of the Sv. Ivan Zelina district were found in a forest. At the beginning of August, three prominent peasants and HSS leaders from the Kutin district were found dead.
12. Because of increased Krizari activity, the Croat Public Prosecutor sent a confidential circular letter to the People's Prosecutors attached to each district NOO, pointing out that "in view of the attacks which become more and more frequent against military patrols, small garrison forces, and various functionaries, people's authorities should in the future undertake action against transgressors in accord with the responsible military commanders in charge of the district. Measures taken should be quick and severe; sentences should be made and carried out immediately."

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